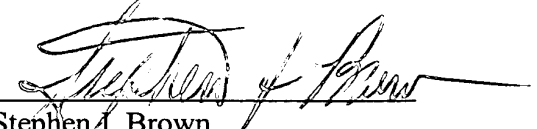


Accordingly, entry of the amendments, examination on the merits, and allowance of the claims is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this paper, please contact the undersigned.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Box Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on December 6, 2001.


Stephen J. Brown, Reg. No. 43,519

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Stephen J. Brown
Registration No. 43,519
BRYAN CAVE LLP
245 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10167-0034
Phone: (212) 692-1800
Fax: (212) 692-1900

In re Application of :
U.S. Serial No.:
For:

Catia BASTIOLI, *et al.*
09/786,189
**BIODEGRADABLE COMPOSITIONS COMPRISING STARCH AND
POLYSACCHARIDE ESTERS**

MARKED-UP COPY OF AMENDMENT PURSUANT TO RULE 1.121(c)(1)(ii)

3. (Amended) Biodegradable compositions according to claim 1 [according to Claim 1 or 2], in which the particles or domains of the dispersed phase have dimension lower than 0.5 μm .

4. (Amended) Biodegradable compositions according to claim 1 [according to any preceding Claim], in which the pH regulating additive is selected from carbonates and hydroxides of alkaline-earth metals.

6. (Amended) Biodegradable compositions according to claim 1 [according to any one of Claims 1 to 5], in which the polysaccharide ester is a cellulose acetate with a degree of substitution of from 1.5 to 2.5.

7. (Amended) Biodegradable compositions according to claim 1 [according to any one of Claims 1 to 6], in which the pH regulating additive is present in a quantity of from 0.5 to 30% by weight relative to the weight of the starch and of the plasticised cellulose ester.

9. (Amended) Biodegradable compositions according to claim 1 [according to any one of Claims 1 to 8], comprising a further polymeric additive selected from the group consisting of:

- polymers or copolymers compatible with the polysaccharide ester, grafted with aliphatic or polyhydroxylated chains containing from 4 to 40 carbon atoms,
- copolymers obtained from hydroxy-acids and diamines with 2-24 carbon atoms, aliphatic polyesters, polyamides, polyureas and polyalkylene glycols with aliphatic or aromatic diisocyanates,

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**BIODEGRADABLE COMPOSITIONS COMPRISING STARCH AND
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– copolymers produced from polymers compatible with the polysaccharide esters by grafting polyols soluble in starch.

11. (Amended) Biodegradable compositions according to claim 1 [according to any one of Claims 1 to 8], in which the further polymeric additive is selected from the group consisting of a polymer or copolymer compatible with the cellulose ester grafted with a fatty acid selected from oleic, lauric, palmitic, stearic, erucic, linoleic, and ricinoleic acids and a block copolymer between polycaprolactone and an aliphatic or aromatic diisocyanate.

12. (Amended) Biodegradable compositions according to claim 1 [according to any one of Claims 1 to 11], comprising a plasticizer for the starch phase, used in a quantity of from 0.5 to 50% relative to the weight of the starch.

13. (Amended) Biodegradable compositions according to claim 1 [according to any one of Claims 1 to 12], in which the ratio of plasticised cellulose-ester:starch is between 2:1 and 3:1 by weight.

14. (Amended) Manufactured articles produced from the compositions of claim 1 [Claims 1 to 13].